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Security Council

Fifty-first Year

Provisional

3661st Meeting
Monday, 6 May 1996, 6.45 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Qin Huasun	(China)
Members:	Botswana	Mr. Outlule
	Chile	Mr. Somavía
	Egypt	Mr. Elaraby
	France	Mr. Thiebaud
	Germany	Mr. Rudolph
	Guinea-Bissau	Mr. Queta
	Honduras	Mr. Rendón Barnica
	Indonesia	Mr. Wisnumurti
	Italy	Mr. Fulci
	Poland	Mr. Matuszewski
	Republic of Korea	Mr. Park
	Russian Federation	Mr. Fedotov
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Gomersall
	United States of America	Mr. Hume

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

96-85636 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 6.45 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*interpretation from Chinese*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of May, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Juan Somavía, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of April 1996. I am sure I speak for all members of the Security Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Somavía for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

The President (*interpretation from Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Liberia in which he requests to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the discussion, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Bull (Liberia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*interpretation from Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses once again its grave concern at the deteriorating situation in Liberia. The Council strongly deplores the wanton killing and atrocities committed against innocent civilians by the forces of the warring factions. The escalating violence among the factions in violation of the Abuja Agreement puts the peace process at grave risk.

"The Security Council calls upon the parties immediately to cease fighting, to observe the cease-fire and to return Monrovia to a safe haven under the protection of the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG). It expresses its support for the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), including the role of ECOMOG, the bring this conflict to an end.

"The Security Council regrets that the deterioration of the situation in Liberia has forced the evacuation of significant numbers of personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia. The Council reminds all States of their obligation to comply with the embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Liberia imposed by resolution 788 (1992).

"The Security Council stresses the importance it attaches to the ECOWAS Summit meeting to be held in Accra on 8 May 1996 and urges the leaders of the Liberian factions to reaffirm by concrete positive actions their commitment to the Abuja Agreement."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/1996/22.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda. The Security Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 6.50 p.m.